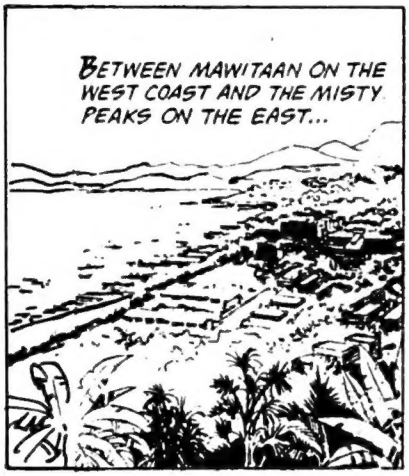
FOR THOSE WHO CAME IN LATE...
400 YEARS AGO, SOLE SURVIVOR OF A PIRATE RAID.. WASHED UP ON A REMOTE BANGALLA BEACH...

THE FIRST PHANTOM.. HIS OATH OF THE SKULL.
...DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF PIRACY, CRUELTY, INJUSTICE... MY SONS WILL FOLLOW ME...
FALK PARKER 4-4

GENERATIONS FOLLOWED HIM.. BUT MILLIONS BELIEVED HIM ALWAYS THE SAME MAN... IMMORTAL...
GHOST WHO WALKS... CAN NEVER DIE...

THRU THE CENTURIES.. THE NEMESIS OF EVIL-DOERS EVERYWHERE ..HE WORKS ALONE ...THE PHANTOM!


BETWEEN MAWITAAN ON THE WEST COAST AND THE MISTY PEAKS ON THE EAST...

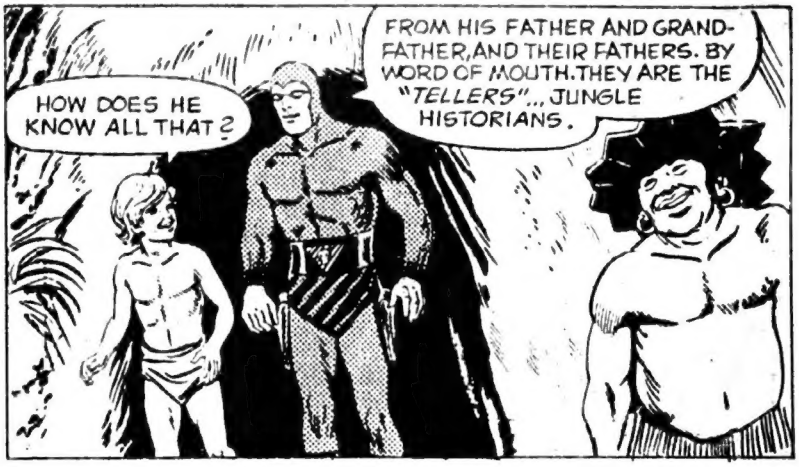
...1,000 MILES OF VIRGIN JUNGLE...ONE OF THE LAST UNEXPLORED AREAS ON EARTH...

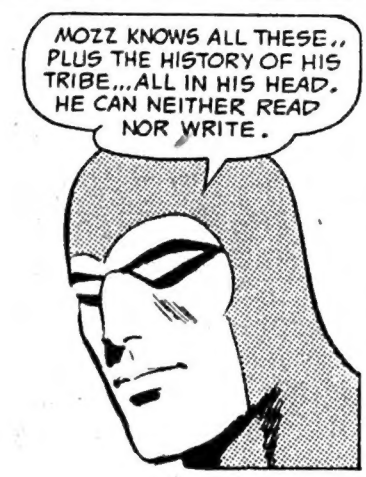
IN THE CENTER... A FORBIDDEN PLACE... HOME OF THE BANDAR... PYGMY POISON PEOPLE... AND THE PHANTOM... GHOST WHO WALKS.
..GUARDIAN OF THE EASTERN DARK?

GURAN, WHAT IS THE EASTERN DARK?
I'VE HEARD THE WORDS, BUT NEVER KNEW THEIR MEANING.

THE PHANTOM CHRONICLES... 4 CENTURIES OF ADVENTURE..
WRITTEN BY THE 9TH PHANTOM.. OVER 200 YEARS AGO..
This day, the council of chiefs did appoint me guardian of the Eastern Dark...

ASK THE TELLER WHO KNOWS ALL AND FORGETS NOTHING, OLD MAN MOZZ.
I WILL.





BEGINNING: GUARDIAN OF THE EASTERN DARK.

OLD MAN MOZZ... THE TELLER..

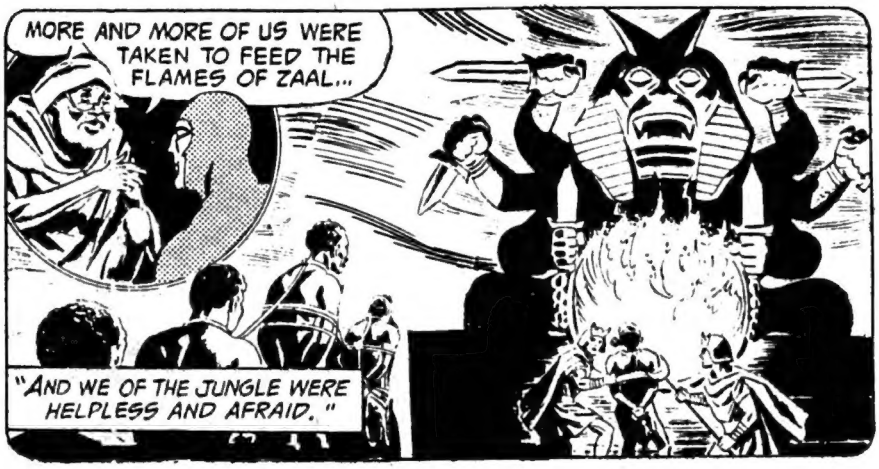
WAS AND IS. AN EVIL PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LIKE DEMONS WORSHIPPED THEIR GOD OF TERROR, ZAAL.

"ZAAL WAS A GREEDY GOD WHO DEMANDED HUMAN SACRIFICE!"

FUEL FOR THAT FIRE WAS HUMAN SACRIFICES... ZAAL NEVER HAD ENOUGH!

"IN THE EASTERN DARK.. THEY BELIEVED THIS..."
THE FIRES THAT FLAME IN ZAAL MUST NEVER DIE...OR OUR KINGDOM DIES! ZAAL CRIES.. MORE.. MORE...
MORE! MORE!

"THE RAIDERS CAME TO OUR JUNGLE.. FOR VICTIMS!"
DEMONS FROM THE DARK!


MORE AND MORE OF US WERE TAKEN TO FEED THE FLAMES OF ZAAL...
"AND WE OF THE JUNGLE WERE HELPLESS AND AFRAID."

"RAIDERS FROM THE EASTERN DARK STRUCK BY SURPRISE...

"...THEN RUSHED THEIR CAPTIVES OFF INTO THE NIGHT...

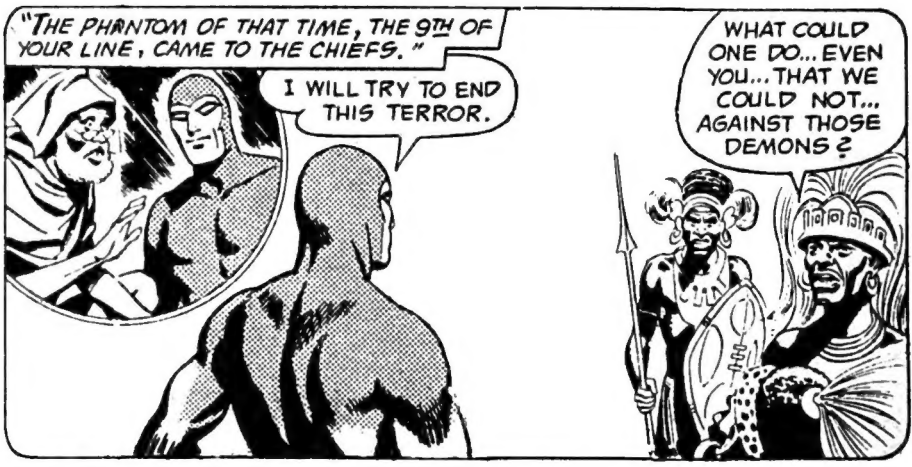
"THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS MET...
WE MUST ATTACK THEM!

"THEIR FRIEND, THE PHANTOM OF THAT TIME, WARNED THEM...
YOU MUST NOT, THEIR WEAPONS ARE SUPERIOR... THEIR LAND IS A TRAP...
TALK
BARR
4-14

"BUT THEY WERE BRAVE MEN...THEY WENT...TO THEIR DEATHS!
"AS HE SAID, THE EASTERN DARK WAS A TRAP."

"A FEW OF OUR WARRIORS SURVIVED THAT HOPELESS ATTACK AGAINST THE EASTERN DARK...

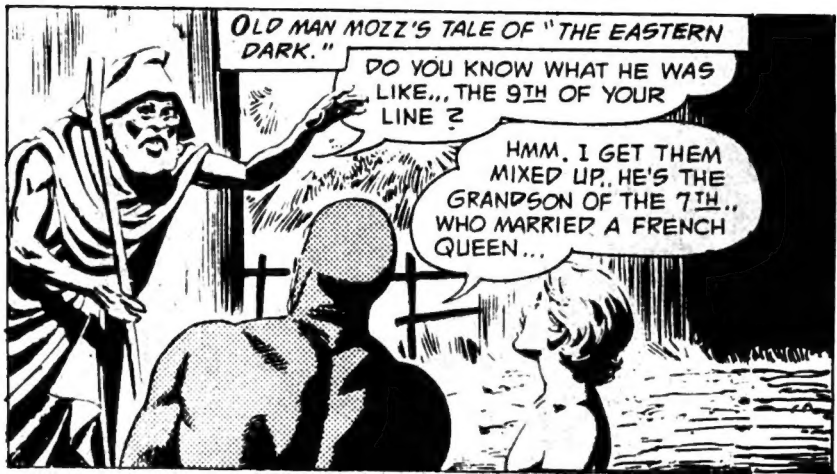
"BUT EVEN AS THEY RESTED, THE RAIDERS ATTACKED... DRAGGING OFF MORE VICTIMS FOR ZAAL...


"THE PHANTOM OF THAT TIME, THE 9TH OF YOUR LINE, CAME TO THE CHIEFS."
I WILL TRY TO END THIS TERROR.
WHAT COULD ONE DO... EVEN YOU... THAT WE COULD NOT... AGAINST THOSE DEMONS?

THE YEAR: 1710—THE NINTH PHANTOM...
PERHAPS, BY STEALTH, ONE CAN DO MORE THAN MANY...
NO, PHANTOM... THERE IS ONLY DEATH IN THE FLAMES OF ZAAL... EVEN FOR YOU...
TALK BARRY 4-16

THIS TERROR...THIS HUMAN SACRIFICE... MUST END! I WILL TRY!

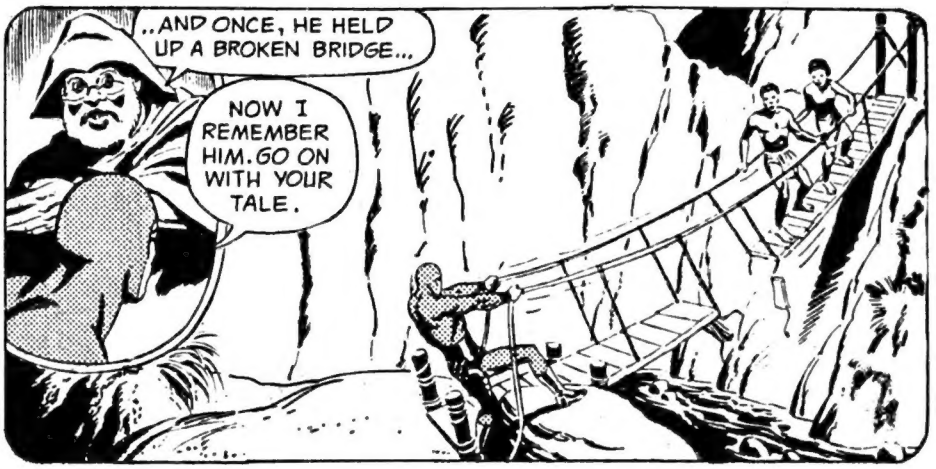
AND THEN... BUT MY THROAT IS DRY.. MUST DRINK SPRING WATER...
AW... DON'T STOP!
SHH... REX...


OLD MAN MOZZ'S TALE OF "THE EASTERN DARK."
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE WAS LIKE... THE 9TH OF YOUR LINE?
HMM. I GET THEM MIXED UP. HE'S THE GRANDSON OF THE 7TH.. WHO MARRIED A FRENCH QUEEN...

HE WAS THE STRONGEST OF ALL!
"HE COULD FELL A TREE WITH HIS ARMS... AND A GREAT APE WITH ONE BLOW!"

"THE 9TH PHANTOM... YOUR ANCESTOR... ONCE SAVED A RHINO FROM A SWAMP...

"..AND SLEW A MAD TIGER WITH HIS BARE HANDS..."


..AND ONCE, HE HELD UP A BROKEN BRIDGE...
NOW I REMEMBER HIM. GO ON WITH YOUR TALE.

THIS MIGHTY MAN, YOUR ANCESTOR, THE 9TH PHANTOM, WENT TO THE EASTERN DARK...

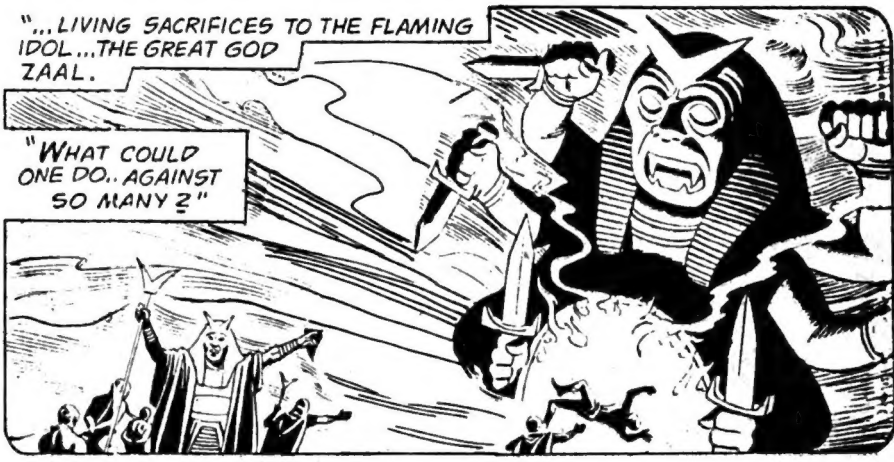
LET US GO WITH YOU!
IT IS BETTER I GO ALONE...

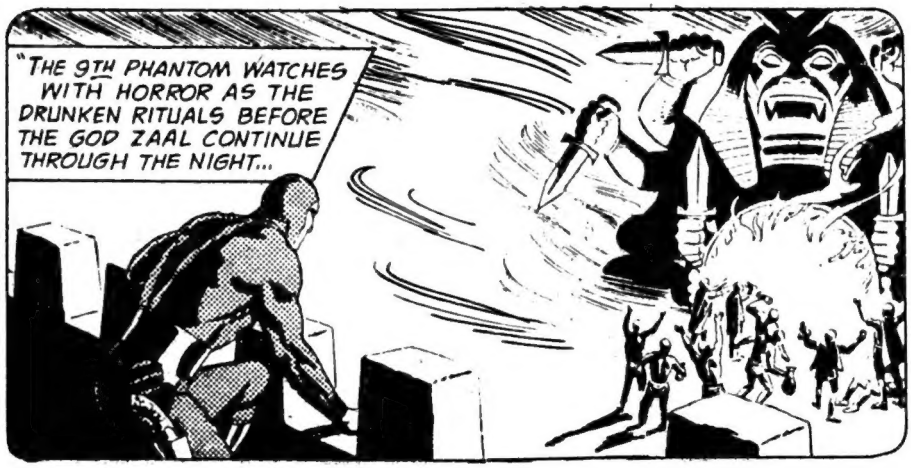
"UNSEEN, THE 9TH PHANTOM CLIMBS THE HEIGHTS OUTSIDE THE GUARDED ENTRANCE OF THE EASTERN DARK.."

"NOW HE REACHED THE GUARDED ENTRANCE... THAT PLACE THAT WAS A DEATH TRAP..."

"THE 9TH PHANTOM ENTERS THE LAND OF THE EASTERN DARK..

"AS HE REACHES THE CITY.. HE HEARS SCREAMS OF THE VICTIMS...


"...LIVING SACRIFICES TO THE FLAMING IDOL...THE GREAT GOD ZAAL.
"WHAT COULD ONE DO.. AGAINST SO MANY ?"


"THE 9TH PHANTOM WATCHES WITH HORROR AS THE DRUNKEN RITUALS BEFORE THE GOD ZAAL CONTINUE THROUGH THE NIGHT...

"THEN JUST BEFORE DAWN, WHEN ALL IS QUIET, HE GOES INTO THE CITY..."

AND THEN.. BUT FIRST.. ANOTHER CUP OF COOL WATER, ANYONE ?
OH, NO.. DON'T STOP, OLD MAN MOZZ!
REX.. SHH...
CONT'D.

"THE 9TH PHANTOM MOVES AMONG THE DRUNKEN RAIDERS OF THE EASTERN DARK...

?

"NOW HE REACHES THE IDOL ZAAL... IN WHOSE FLAMES CAPTIVES ARE SACRIFICED..."
THE FIRES OF ZAAL MUST NEVER DIE.. OR OUR KINGDOM DIES!

"IN THE EASTERN DARK... A WARNING BLAST...

"THE DRUNKEN RAIDERS WAKE UP...
??
?

"THE 9TH PHANTOM FACES THE RAGING FANATICS.."
KILL..KILL..THROW HIM INTO THE FIRE OF ZAAL!
TALK BARRY 4-26

"AS THE FIRST RAIDER REACHES THE MASKED STRANGER IN THE EASTERN DARK...
DIE.. DIE..!

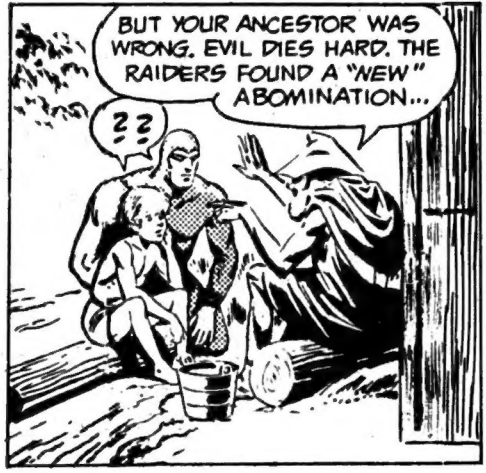
??

"THEN...AS THE OTHERS RUSH HIM, THIS MIGHTY MAN (THE 9TH PHANTOM) PICKS UP THE HUGE WINE VAT..."
TALK BARRY 4-27

"IN THE EASTERN DARK: AS THE FANATICS CHARGE THE 9TH PHANTOM, HE HURLS THE HUGE WINE VAT INTO THE FLAMES OF ZAAL...

"..STUNNED..THE RAIDERS STARE AT THEIR SMOKING IDOL.."
THE FIRES OF ZAAL MUST NEVER DIE... OR OUR KINGDOM DIES!
"THE 9TH PHANTOM PUTS OUT THE FIRES OF THE IDOL ZAAL..."
SACRILEGE!
KILL!
KILL!
TALK BACK 4-29
EEE EEE EEE
CRASH!
THAT PHANTOM WAS A MIGHTY MAN... AS ARE ALL PHANTOMS...
"THAT WAS THE END OF THE FLAMING IDOL ZAAL AND MANY OF ITS DEMONIC WORSHIPPERS..."
CRASH!
THAT SHOULD BE THE END OF THEIR HUMAN SACRIFICE... AND OF THEM!
BUT THAT WAS NOT THE END...
WHAT ELSE, OLD MAN MOZZ?
WOW!
"THE END OF THE FLAMING IDOL OF ZAAL... AND ITS HUMAN SACRIFICES...
King Features Syndicate, Inc., 1977. World rights reserved.

"THE 9TH PHANTOM REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS..."
THE RAIDERS OF THE EASTERN DARK ARE FINISHED!

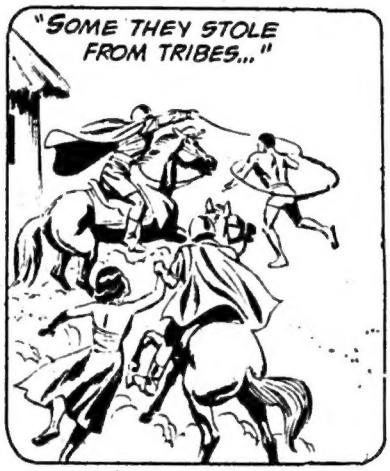

BUT YOUR ANCESTOR WAS WRONG. EVIL DIES HARD. THE RAIDERS FOUND A "NEW" ABOMINATION...
??

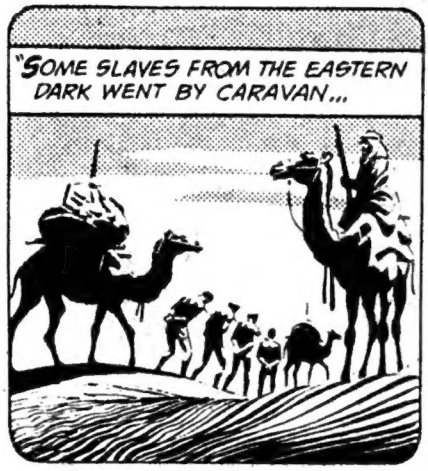
"THEN, WHEN RAIDERS SWEPT OUT OF THE EASTERN DARK...

"IT WAS NOT TO CAPTURE VICTIMS FOR SACRIFICE TO AN IDOL..."
TALK TO BARRY 5-3

...BUT TO GET LIVE MERCHANDISE FOR SALE...
SLAVES!
CRAK!

"THE EASTERN DARK RAIDERS BECAME SLAVERS ...THE BIGGEST... THE CRUELEST..


"SOME THEY STOLE FROM TRIBES..."


"SOME SLAVES FROM THE EASTERN DARK WENT BY CARAVAN...

"...TO DESERT KINGDOMS..."

...SOME BOUGHT FROM GREEDY RULERS WHO SOLD CAPTIVES... AND IT IS SHAMEFUL TO SAY...OFTEN SOLD THEIR OWN PEOPLE...

..OTHERS CROSSED THE GREAT OCEAN TO THE FIELDS OF THE NEW WORLD..

DOWN THRU THE AGES, YOUR ANCESTORS FOUGHT THE SLAVERS OF THE EASTERN DARK...
DID THEY... WIN?

.."SOMETIMES THEY WON..

"...SOMETIMES THEY LOST. BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS ANOTHER PHANTOM TO CARRY ON THE BATTLE..."

"IN THE EASTERN DARK... FROM HUMAN SACRIFICE TO THE SLAVE TRADE..."

NOW, O PHANTOM, YOU KNOW WHY YOU ARE CALLED "GUARDIAN OF THE EASTERN DARK."
ANCIENT HISTORY... OVER AND GONE...

NOT OVER. NOT GONE. THE EASTERN DARK LIVES ON...
?!

THESE EVILS EXIST HERE TODAY, O GUARDIAN OF THE EASTERN DARK.
SACRIFICE... SLAVERY... TODAY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU WILL LEARN.
?
FALK & BARRY 5/9

HUMAN SACRIFICE... SLAVERY... EXIST TODAY...
WHAT DID OLD MOZZ MEAN, UNCLE WALKER?*
I DON'T KNOW, REX. HE SAID, I'LL LEARN..
*FOR THE GHOST WHO WALKS.

AHEAD ON THE PATH... A JUNGLE PEDDLER..

?!

NO! TAKE MY MONEY... DON'T KILL ME...!

?!

!

YOU ALL RIGHT, PEDDLER?
THANKS TO YOU, PHANTOM! THAT THIEF.. MEANT TO KILL ME FOR MY PURSE...

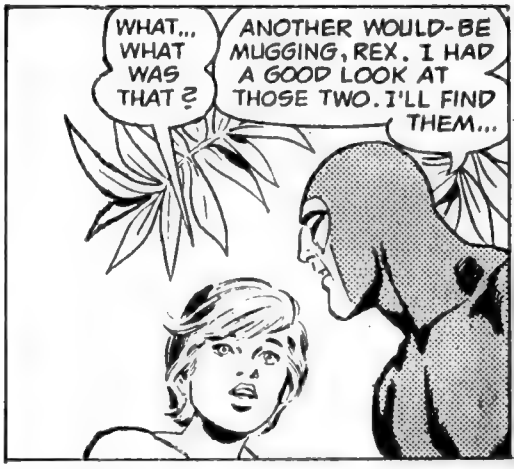
30 YEARS I'VE TRAVELED THIS PATH. NEVER HAPPENED BEFCRE...
A MUGGING, REX... THE CITY HAS REACHED THE JUNGLE...
FALK & FARRELL 5/12

CAN YOU FIND THAT ROBBER?
I MUST..HE'S A POTENTIAL KILLER.

A RIDER COMING! WE CAN GET GOOD CASH FOR THE HORSE.
WE NEED IT!

!
!
UH... PHANTOM!

AN ATTEMPTED ATTACK FAILS...
!
RUN!
THE PHANTOM!


WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?
ANOTHER WOULD-BE MUGGING, REX. I HAD A GOOD LOOK AT THOSE TWO. I'LL FIND THEM...

SOMETHING'S WRONG IN THE JUNGLE... IT'S GONE CRAZY..!
NEXT WEEK: THE EVIL

THE COUNCIL OF JUNGLE CHIEFS...
AN EVIL HAS COME TO OUR TRIBES... WE KNOW NOT WHAT IT IS.. IT INFECTS OUR YOUTHS...

"BY DAY, MANY STAY IN A STUPOR..

"BY NIGHT, THEY HAUNT THE PATHS LIKE HUNGRY WOLVES... STEALING... KILLING..."

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR PEACEFUL JUNGLE?
IT WAS ALWAYS SAID... "IN OUR LAND..

"...A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN CLAD IN THE FINEST JEWELS COULD WALK ANYWHERE SAFELY AT MIDNIGHT..."

NOW, WE DARE NOT LEAVE OUR VILLAGES AT NIGHT. THE PATHS ARE FILLED WITH KILLERS...WHAT IS THIS NEW EVIL, PHANTOM ?
I DON'T KNOW, CHIEF.. HEY...
!!!

WHAT IS IT, PHANTOM ?
THOSE THREE.. I SAW THEM.. ON THE PATH. STOP...

FALK & BARRY 5/18

UMMPH!
UGH!

I WOUNDED THIS ONE WHEN HE TRIED TO ROB AND KILL A PEDDLER. THE OTHER TWO TRIED TO ATTACK ME...
THESE ARE THE ONES I SPOKE OF...

IN A STUPOR BY DAY.. ROAMING THE JUNGLE AT NIGHT..
HOLD OUT YOUR ARMS...

OBEY!
HMMM... I WAS AFRAID OF THIS...
TOMORROW: WHAT?

AN EVIL FROM THE OUTSIDE HAS COME TO OUR JUNGLE, CHIEFS.
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?
OUR.. BUSINESS..
ANSWER!

WHAT IS THIS EVIL FROM OUTSIDE, PHANTOM ?
SOMETHING UNKNOWN HERE...A WHITE POWDER...

CAN WHITE POWDER BE SO BAD ?
THOSE WHO NEED IT WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET IT...EVEN KILL...

A DRUG CALLED HEROIN.
?

IT IS AN EVIL THAT SPREADS RAPIDLY..WE MUST STOP IT BEFORE IT INFECTS THE JUNGLE...

WHERE DID YOU GET THE HEROIN ?

COUNCIL OF CHIEFS...
ONCE MORE... WHERE DID YOU GET THE HEROIN ?
HMM. THEY'RE NOT TALKING, CHIEF.
IF YOU VALUE YOUR MISERABLE LIVES...

ANSWER NOW ...OR DIE... NOW!
WE TALK..

JUNGLE JUSTICE... CRUEL BUT SWIFT. MAYBE THE CITIES COULD USE SOME.

COUNCIL OF JUNGLE CHIEFS.
TWICE A WEEK. A STRANGER COMES..
WE KNOW NOT HIS NAME OR TRIBE...
HE COMES FROM THERE.
THE EAST ?

"WE MEET AT MIDNIGHT..IF WE HAVE MONEY, HE GIVES US WHITE POWDER..

"ONE NIGHT, WE HAD NO MONEY... WE TRIED TO ROB THE STRANGER OF HIS WHITE POWDER..
GET HIM!
YEAH!
5/25

"WE FAILED.. HE SHOT ONE OF US DEAD... MY BROTHER RINO..."

YOUR BROTHER.. MY NEPHEW?! YOU SAID HE WENT AWAY!
WE.. WE BURIED HIM IN THE WOODS, UNCLE...

WE WILL ROB.. OR KILL.. BUT WE--MUST--HAVE--THE--WHITE--POWDER!

AT THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS...
IF YOU HAVE NO MONEY, THE STRANGER WILL NOT RETURN... NO MORE WHITE POWDER...
HE WILL RETURN.. HE KNOWS WE WILL GET THE MONEY...

WHAT IS THE POWER OF THIS TERRIBLE WHITE POWDER?
A LIVING DEATH, CHIEFS OF THE JUNGLE!

THE STRANGER COMES THIS NIGHT.. I MUST MEET HIM TO GET THE WHITE POWDER. UNCLE, LEND ME MONEY... HELP ME OR I DIE!

HOW CAN WE CURE THIS... MADNESS?
IT ISN'T EASY. LOCK THEM IN A HUT.. GUARD THEM.

THE CURE IS CALLED "COLD TURKEY."
WE MUST FIND THIS STRANGER AND DESTROY HIM!

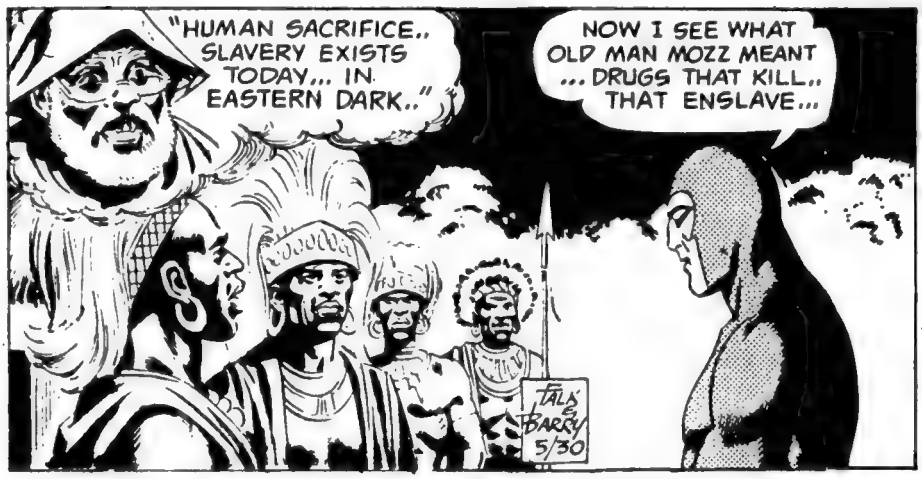
WE WILL WAIT FOR THE STRANGER WHO BRINGS WHITE POWDER THAT POISONS OUR YOUTH..AND KILL HIM!
CHIEF, HE IS ONLY THE BEARER... WE MUST FIND THE SOURCE.
© King Features Syndicate Inc., 1977 World rights reserved.

MY NEPHEW LIED. HE SAID THE MAN CAME FROM THE EAST...THERE IS NOTHING EAST... ONLY JUNGLE.

THERE IS ONE PLACE... THE EASTERN DARK.
?

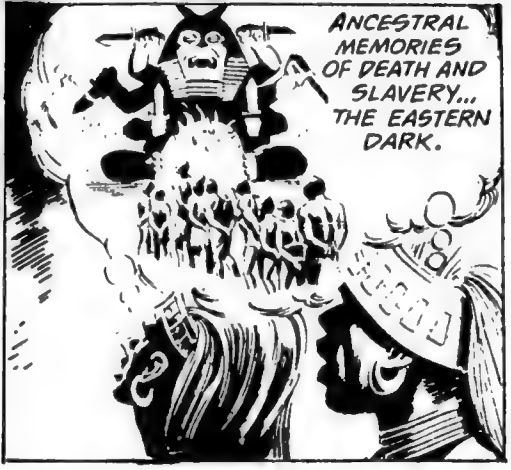
JUNGLE ADDICTS ENDURING "COLD TURKEY" DRUG WITHDRAWAL...

YOU THINK.. THE WHITE POWDER COMES FROM THE EASTERN DARK?
A HUNCH, CHIEF.


"HUMAN SACRIFICE.. SLAVERY EXISTS TODAY... IN EASTERN DARK.."
NOW I SEE WHAT OLD MAN MOZZ MEANT ... DRUGS THAT KILL.. THAT ENSLAVE...
TALS & BARRY 5/30

I SAY.. CAPTURE THE STRANGER THIS NIGHT AND KILL HIM.
PHANTOM HAS OTHER ADVICE. SPEAK.
CHIEFS, THIS STRANGER IS ONLY A MESSENGER...
THE COUNCIL OF JUNGLE CHIEFS.

WE MUST DESTROY THE CENTER...IN THE EASTERN DARK!
!!


ANCESTRAL MEMORIES OF DEATH AND SLAVERY... THE EASTERN DARK.

A WORRIED COUNCIL OF CHIEFS.
HOW DO WE KNOW THE WHITE POWDER COMES FROM THE EASTERN DARK ?
HOW DO WE KNOW THE EASTERN DARK STILL EXISTS ?
WE DON'T. I'M ONLY GUESSING..

HOW CAN WE CONVINCE OUR WARRIORS TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILIES.. AND THE JUNGLE... FOR A "GUESS"?
YOU CAN'T.

COUNCIL OF CHIEFS.
CHIEFS, YOU'VE SEEN WHAT THIS POWDER CALLED HEROIN DOES.
LOOK AMONG YOUR YOUTHS TO SEE IF IT HAS REACHED THEM.

I'LL TRY TO FIND THE SOURCE AND STAMP IT OUT BEFORE IT INFECTS THE ENTIRE JUNGLE!

WITH YOUR BLESSINGS, CHIEFS OF THE JUNGLE, I WILL GO.

GOOD LUCK, PHANTOM... GHOST WHO WALKS...

NIGHT, IN THE JUNGLE...
THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE STRANGER COMES WITH THE WHITE POWDER...
INTO THE BUSHES, FELLAS...

ALMOST MIDNIGHT... SHOULD SHOW UP SOON... WILL HE BE FROM THE EASTERN DARK ?

MIDNIGHT..

MIDNIGHT IN THE JUNGLE.. THE UNKNOWN BEARER OF "WHITE POWDER."

NOBODY HERE. NO MONEY & I'LL WAIT A LITTLE... THEN GO...

HE DOESN'T HAVE TO WAIT.. EVEN "A LITTLE"...
UUFF!

MIDNIGHT... ON THE JUNGLE PATH... THE STRANGER...
!

HE FIRES... TOO LATE...

UMPF!
WHAM

UH... GASP... UH...

KNOCKED THE WIND OUT OF HIM..

DON'T KILL ME. TAKE MY MONEY.. TAKE THE BAGS..
I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY.. OR YOUR LIFE. WHERE'S THE WHITE POWDER?

IS THIS ALL THE HEROIN YOU HAVE?
EVERY-- LAST-- SPECK...

EXCEPT THIS...
!

STOP... WORTH..A FORTUNE..!
HERE..WORTH LESS THAN DIRT! WHEN I FINISH..WE'LL TALK!
FALK & BARRY 6/8

THE LAST OF THE NASTY STUFF. HOPE IT DOESN'T TURN THE FISH INTO ADDICTS.

DEVIL.. FETCH.

HE'S A WOLF. HE'S HUNGRY. UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE HIS LUNCH.. START TALKING!
UHH...

!
HOW MANY OF YOU PUSH HEROIN IN THIS JUNGLE?

WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? I WARN YOU.. YOU MUST TELL ME...
I WILL TELL YOU THIS!

DEVIL? OH...
...WE NEVER TRAVEL ALONE.

A HIJACKER?
NO.. HE THREW THE STUFF AWAY!

WE'LL FIND OUT WHO HE IS.. THROW YOUR GUNS ON THE GROUND.

SURE.
"PHANTOM HAND QUICKER THAN EYE CAN SEE"...OLD JUNGLE SAYING.

JUNGLE ENCOUNTER.. AT MIDNIGHT...
!!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SUCH SHOOTING.. IMPOSS-I-BLE!

I HIT YOUR GUNS INSTEAD OF YOU.. BECAUSE I WANT YOU ALIVE.. AND TALKING!

GENTLEMEN, BE SEATED.. WE'LL BEGIN OUR LITTLE CHAT.

I'M NOT GETTING THRU TO YOU. I SAID..

..BE SEATED!
UH!
"PHANTOM ROUGH ON ROUGH- NECKS"... OLD JUNGLE SAYING...
OU!
WHAM

HOW MANY OF YOU ARE PUSHING DRUGS IN THIS JUNGLE?
TEN OR TWELVE..
SHH... TELL HIM.. NOTHING!
FALK & BARRY 6/15

WHEN I ASK QUESTIONS, I WANT ANSWERS! UNDERSTOOD?
GASP... GULP..

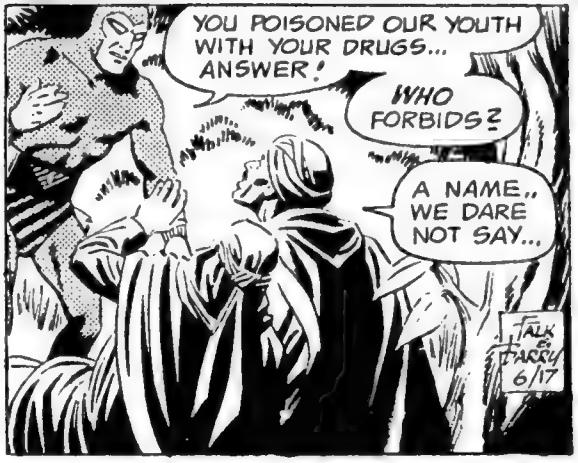
OKAY.. A DOZEN OF YOU ARE PUSHING HEROIN IN THIS JUNGLE. FOR HOW LONG?
ABOUT.. A YEAR...

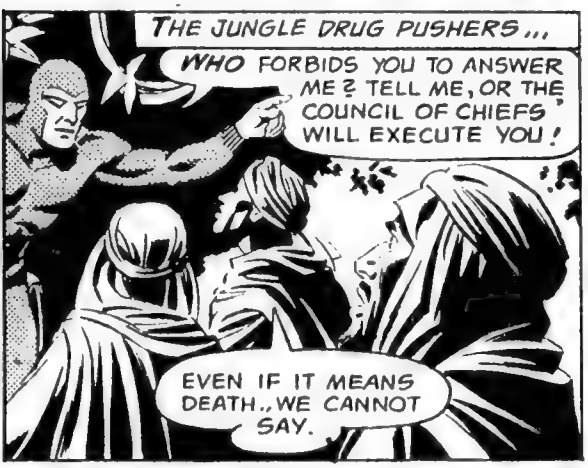
ABOUT A YEAR? WHERE IS YOUR HEADQUARTERS? WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

THAT.. WE CANNOT SAY...
IT IS FORBIDDEN...

ONCE MORE.. WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
WE CANNOT TELL... FORBIDDEN!

WHO FORBIDS YOU?
CRACK
OW!


YOU POISONED OUR YOUTH WITH YOUR DRUGS... ANSWER!
WHO FORBIDS?
A NAME.. WE DARE NOT SAY...
FALK & PARRY 6/17


THE JUNGLE DRUG PUSHERS...
WHO FORBIDS YOU TO ANSWER ME? TELL ME, OR THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS WILL EXECUTE YOU!
EVEN IF IT MEANS DEATH.. WE CANNOT SAY.

I WILL NOT DIE. I WILL TELL. IT IS THE SLEEPING GOD...

WE CANNOT SAY HIS NAME...
I THINK I KNOW IT...

THE THREE DRUG PUSHERS...
THE NAME YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO SAY... IS IT ALSO THE NAME OF YOUR TOWN?

LET ME GUESS... IS IT..ZAAL?
!!!

ZAAL..THE ANCIENT IDOL, IN WHOSE FLAMES VICTIMS WERE SACRIFICED 200 YEARS AGO...

FANTASTIC... OVER 200 YEARS AGO, THE 9TH PHANTOM TOPPLED THE IDOL ZAAL...
CRASH!

WHY DO YOU CALL ZAAL THE SLEEPING GOD?
WE CAN SAY NO MORE!

THEN I'LL SEE FOR MYSELF. ON YOUR FEET, ALL OF YOU!

THE JUNGLE DRUG PUSHERS...
WE'VE A LONG WAY TO GO TO YOUR SECRET CITY. I'VE PUT YOU TOGETHER THIS WAY BECAUSE YOU'RE EASIER TO WATCH.

NOT TOO COMFORTABLE... BUT BETTER THAN WALKING.
!
!

YOUR ANCESTORS RAIDED THIS JUNGLE FOR LIVING SACRIFICE VICTIMS...THEN FOR SLAVES...

WE KNOW NOTHING OF SUCH THINGS.
NOW THAT YOU'RE "RESPECTABLE" DRUG PUSHERS, YOU WANT TO FORGET THE PAST.
SHH...HE'S GETTING CARELESS... WATCH FOR A CHANCE...

DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE. WITHOUT WEAPONS, YOU WON'T LAST AN HOUR WITH THE ANIMALS. GOODNIGHT...

LATER...
SHH...HE'S ASLEEP. LET'S GET OUR HORSES... UH!
WOOF!

ONE OF THOSE ANIMALS IS DEVIL...DON'T PUSH HIM...
!
!!
GRRR

THE JUNGLE DRUG PUSHERS...
MOUNT UP. WE'RE OFF..

NOW...

KILL!
GRAB HIS GUNS!
!

DIANA.. AT THE U.N.
SO HARD TO REALIZE.. WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO BE MARRIED.. I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING RIGHT NOW.
Darling: Things move slowly.. still awaiting my first assignment...

WHAT HE'S DOING RIGHT NOW..
KILL HIM!
GET HIM!
OUCH...

THE PHANTOM AND THE DRUG PUSHERS OF ZAAL.
OW!
WHAM!

USUALLY, I DISLIKE FIGHTING. BUT I ENJOYED THAT... WITH THESE DRUG PEDDLERS!
I'D LIKE TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN!

THE PHANTOM AND THE DRUG PUSHERS...
YOU'RE ALMOST HOME, MEN, I'M LETTING YOU RIDE IN WITHOUT ME.

I IMAGINE THEY'LL BE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS.

GO!
SLAP!

THE HIDDEN ENTRANCE TO THE SECRET CITY OF ZAAL.

?!

OUR HORSE!?
OUR MEN!

AT THE GATES OF ZAAL...

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
LEARN LATER... CANNOT LEAVE POSTS HERE...

OUR THREE FROM THE JUNGLE!
DEAD?

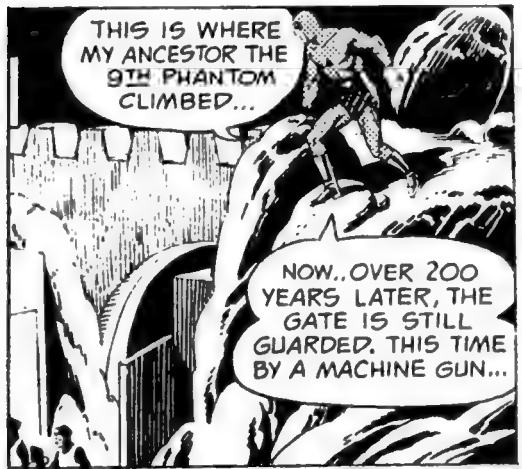
IN THE SECRET CITY OF ZAAL...
HIGHNESS, THE MEN... FROM THE JUNGLE ROUTE...CAME TIED ON THAT HORSE...
ARE THEY ALIVE?

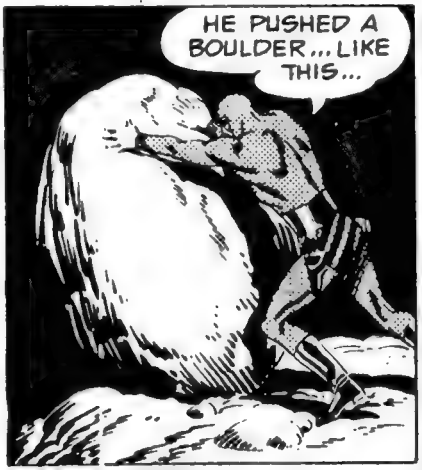
YES...UNCONSCIOUS... I SEE NO WOUNDS... BUT ON THEIR JAWS... THOSE MARKS..!?

THREE DRUG PUSHERS RETURN FROM THE JUNGLE... TO ZAAL!
SKULL MARKS? ARE YOU SURE?
THERE, HIGHNESS.. ON THEIR JAWS..

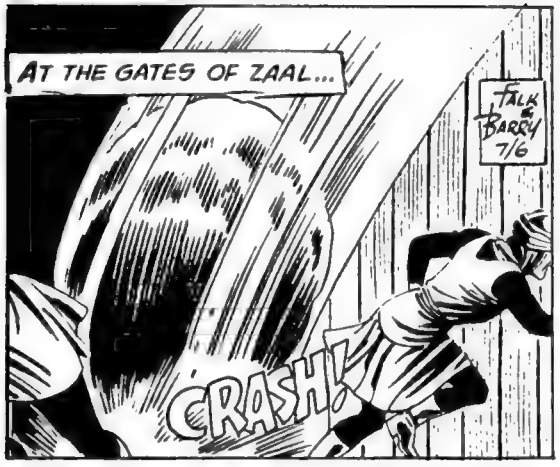
PHANTOM..GHOST WHO WALKS..LEGEND OF THE SLEEPING GOD...?!

OVER 200 YEARS AGO, THE 9TH PHANTOM CAME THIS WAY...IT'S LIKE A DREAM...


THIS IS WHERE MY ANCESTOR THE 9TH PHANTOM CLIMBED...
NOW..OVER 200 YEARS LATER, THE GATE IS STILL GUARDED. THIS TIME BY A MACHINE GUN...


HE PUSHED A BOULDER... LIKE THIS...

AND IT FELL.. LIKE THAT.
!!


AT THE GATES OF ZAAL...
CRASH!
FALK & BARRY 7/6

THAT ALMOST HIT US!
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

FROM UP HERE!
UH...
UMPH!

AT THE GATES OF ZAAL...
WHAM!

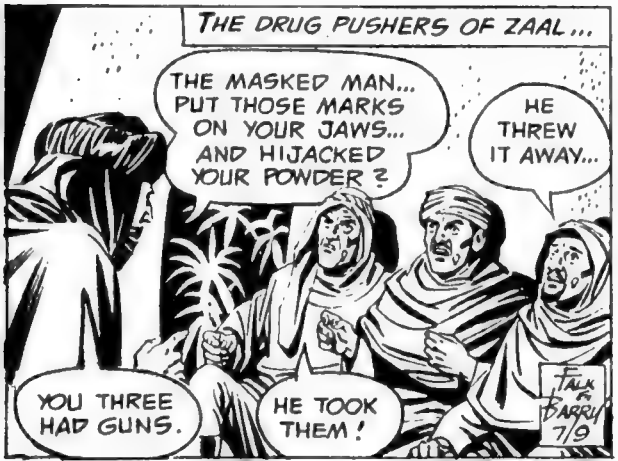
BETTER HAVE A LOOK-SEE BEFORE ENTERING...
FAL & BARR 7/7

THE SLEEPING GOD!

THAT IDOL, ZAAL... STILL LYING WHERE THE 9TH PHANTOM PUSHED IT.
THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE SLEEPING GOD... BECAUSE IT'S HORIZONTAL!

OH, DIANA... I WISH YOU COULD SEE THIS.

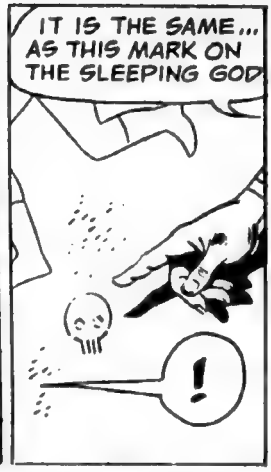
SOMEDAY... SOON, I HOPE.. IF I LIVE THRU THIS.. I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT, DIANA.


THE DRUG PUSHERS OF ZAAL...
THE MASKED MAN... PUT THOSE MARKS ON YOUR JAWS... AND HIJACKED YOUR POWDER?
HE THREW IT AWAY...
YOU THREE HAD GUNS.
HE TOOK THEM!
FALK & BARRY 7/9

TOOK YOUR GUNS?
DID HE... LOOK.. LIKE.. THIS?

HIGH PRIEST OF ZAAL...
YOU SAY THE "MAN" WHO TOOK YOUR GUNS... AND LEFT THE MARK.. LOOKED LIKE THIS?
YES!
YES!

LIES! THEY STOLE THE POWDER AND SOLD IT!
THEY DO NOT LIE, GREAT PRINCE. SEE THIS MARK UPON THEIR JAWS?

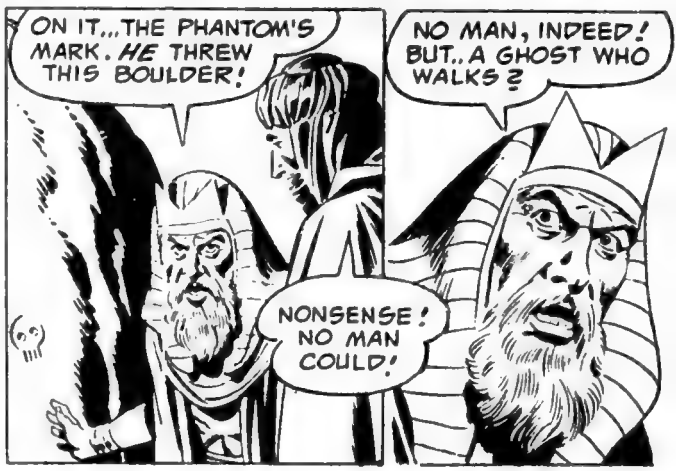

IT IS THE SAME... AS THIS MARK ON THE SLEEPING GOD
!

SEE THIS, PRINCE. EACH MARK IS ONE YEAR SINCE HE WAS HERE. 200 MARKS. 200 YEARS.
SUPERSTITION, HIGH PRIEST!

BLASPHEMY! HE OVERTURNED THE GREAT GOD ZAAL... WHO NOW SLEEPS!

THE LEGEND OF THE SLEEPING GOD IS TRUE!
PRINCE! THE PHANTOM... HE'S HERE!

AT THE GATES OF ZAAL... THE EASTERN DARK...
EACH GUARD... HAS THE SKULL ON HIS JAW!
PRINCE.. LOOK AT THAT GREAT BOULDER... SMASHED THE MACHINE GUN...


ON IT... THE PHANTOM'S MARK. HE THREW THIS BOULDER!
NO MAN, INDEED! BUT.. A GHOST WHO WALKS?
NONSENSE! NO MAN COULD!

HIGH PRIEST... DON'T BE A FOOL. NO MAN COULD THROW THAT BOULDER.. IT SLIPPED.. AND FELL.
INDEED, PRINCE?
AND DID OUR ANCIENT GOD ZAAL ALSO SLIP AND FALL?

MAN.. OR GHOST... THERE'S AN ENEMY INSIDE OUR WALLS!
SHUT THE GATES. EVERY MAN ON GUARD!

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR ?
PRINCE SAYS MAN.. HIGH PRIEST SAYS GHOST!

INSIDE THE BRONZE BELLY OF ZAAL.. WHERE LIVING PEOPLE WERE SACRIFICED IN THE FLAMES...
DIANA.. SOME DAY AT OUR FIREPLACE, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THIS. WILL YOU BELIEVE IT ?

IN ZAAL... THE EASTERN DARK...
PRINCE, HIGHNESS.. ARE WE SEARCHING FOR A MAN...OR A (GULP) GHOST ?
FOR A STRANGER, IDIOT! FIND HIM!

CAN THE HIGH PRIEST BE RIGHT ? THE ANCIENT TALE OF THE MASKED MAN.. TRUE ?

THAT WAS 200 YEARS AGO. OBVIOUSLY, NOT THE SAME MAN- AN IMPOSTOR! THEN, WHO CAN HE BE ?
WHO CAN HE BE, INDEED!

I'LL END THE SEARCH, HIGH PRIEST. NO MASKED HIJACKER WOULD DARE COME TO ZAAL.
NO, PRINCE! THE SEARCH MUST GO ON. UNTIL THE GHOST WHO WALKS IS... EXORCISED!

THAT OLD FOOL... PHANTOM-SKULL MARKS.. SUPERSTITIOUS NONSENSE... JUST A CLEVER HOOD... OR A SPY!

URK!

AT THE FALLEN IDOL ZAAL...
URK!

G-GURK...
SHH..!

WHERE IS THE PRINCE ? I LEFT HIM HERE ONLY A MOMENT AGO.
I DON'T KNOW, HIGH PRIEST... HERE IS HIS LIGHTER.

FIND THE PRINCE. TELL HIM I REACHED MY FAMILIAR SPIRIT...
WE HAVE DRIVEN THE GHOST WHO WALKS FROM OUR SACRED CITY.
!

TELL HIM THERE IS NO MORE TO FEAR.
YES, HIGH PRIEST!

INSIDE BRONZE ZAAL... THE "SLEEPING GOD"...
GOOD NEWS, EH, PRINCE?
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

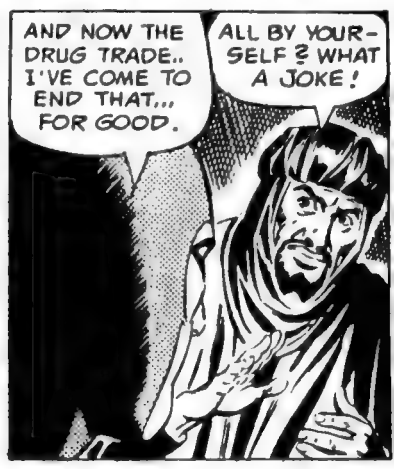
YOU PRETEND TO BE THE PHANTOM?
MEN CALL ME MANY NAMES.. THAT IS ONE OF THEM.

WE ARE.. INSIDE THE SLEEPING GOD!
TRUE...

SACRILEGE! WHEN THEY FIND YOU, THEY'LL TEAR YOU APART!
NO DOUBT... IF THEY FIND US, PRINCE. SIT!

SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE MOBSTER, PRINCE.. WHICH I SEE YOU ARE... UNDER THAT OUTFIT.
YOU'RE NO GHOST! WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE? A PIECE OF THE ACTION?

THE RAIDERS OF ZAAL TERRORIZED THE JUNGLE FOR CENTURIES... FIRST WITH HUMAN SACRIFICE HERE... THEN WITH SLAVE RAIDS...


AND NOW THE DRUG TRADE.. I'VE COME TO END THAT... FOR GOOD.
ALL BY YOURSELF? WHAT A JOKE!

I EXORCISED THE GHOST WHO WALKS. ZAAL IS SAFE ONCE MORE!
WE MUST FIND THE PRINCE TO TELL HIM!
WHERE IS HE?

SINCE WHEN DO NARKS WEAR MASKS AND FUNNY SUITS? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, HOOD!
I'M NOT HERE TO MAKE YOU LAUGH, PRINCE.

BEFORE LONG, YOU MAY CRY...
?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS, WHAT-EVER-YOU-ARE?
A WORLD CENTER FOR HEROIN PRODUCTION...

"NATIVE BOATS BRING RAW OPIUM TO OUR FORGOTTEN LITTLE PORT...

"HERE IN OUR LABS.. OPIUM TO MORPHINE TO HEROIN... BY THE TON!"

THE "LOST CITY" OF ZAAL... EX-HOME OF HUMAN SACRIFICE AND SLAVE TRADE... NOW A WORLD DRUG CENTER...

HOW DO YOU... A MOBSTER, RULE THIS PLACE AS PRINCE?
INHERITED IT. I LEFT HOME AS A YOUTH.. BECAME A BIG SHOT IN EUROPE..

MY FATHER DIED... I RETURNED TO RULE, AND...
LET ME FINISH... THE MOB THOUGHT THIS'D BE A GREAT HIDE-OUT TO PRODUCE HEROIN...
TALK & HARRY 7/26

INSIDE THE FALLEN IDOL...
CRACK!
YOU.. UH..!

UH-UH.. YOU BROKE MY JAW...
NOT THIS TIME. NEXT TIME, IF YOU TRY THAT AGAIN.

DON'T BE A FOOL! WE'RE A POWER ALL OVER THE EARTH.. WE HAVE MILLIONS ... YOU CAN'T FIGHT US... WE'LL CUT YOU IN!
NO, THANKS. I HAVE OTHER PLANS.

INSIDE THE IDOL ZAAL...
WHAT.. ARE YOU DOING?
PRINCE, YOU THINK YOUR PEOPLE'S OLD TALES ABOUT THIS SLEEPING GOD ARE NONSENSE?

INSIDE THIS BRONZE IDOL, YOUR ANCESTORS FED LIVING CAPTIVES TO THE FLAMES.. WALLS ARE STILL BLACK WITH CARBON...

WHAT IF YOUR SLEEPING GOD WOKE UP AFTER 200 YEARS... WITH A FIRE IN HIS BELLY?
NO...NO... YOU CAN'T!

?

HIGH PRIEST, LOOK!
?

SMOKE... FROM THE SLEEPING GOD...!
NO FLAMES OF ZAAL.. FOR 200 YEARS! SACRILEGE!

FLAMES IN ZAAL? WHO DARES THIS? ONLY I, HIGH PRIEST OF THE SLEEPING GOD, CAN KINDLE THE FIRE...
UH?
FALK & BARRY 7/30

EEEEE!

? ?

ZAAL, "THE SLEEPING GOD"...
EEEEEE

HIGH PRIEST.. DEVOURED.. BY ZAAL!
!

WELCOME TO THE BURNING BELLY OF ZAAL. NOW YOU KNOW HOW YOUR ANCESTORS' VICTIMS FELT, HIGH PRIEST.
PHAN-TOM!

INSIDE THE IDOL ZAAL.
YOU KNOW ME, HIGH PRIEST OF ZAAL?
PHANTOM.. OUR.. ETERNAL.. ENEMY!

A HOOD,, TRYING TO TAKE OVER OUR OPERATION!
WRONG TWICE, PRINCE. NO HOOD.. NO TAKEOVER.

I'M HERE TO END THE ENDLESS EVIL OF THE EASTERN DARK FOR GOOD!

PUT OUT THAT FIRE! IT'S GETTING TOO HOT IN HERE.
IT'S GOING TO GET HOTTER, PRINCE.
WHAT... WILL YOU DO, ETERNAL ENEMY?

I'LL GET TO THAT. FIRST, HOW MUCH HEROIN IS HERE?
I KNEW YOU'D GET TO THAT, HOOD!

QUESTIONS NEED ANSWERS, PRINCE!
BONG
"PHANTOM ROUGH ON ROUGHNECKS," OLD JUNGLE SAYING.

LOOK... THE PRINCE.. THE HIGH PRIEST!
HEAR AND OBEY, MEN OF ZAAL! OUCH!
ON YOUR KNEES BEFORE THE SLEEPING GOD!
!
!

BRING ALL THE WHITE POWDER...
BRING ALL THE WHITE POWDER...
BRING WOOD..
BRING WOOD..
INSIDE THE IDOL..
SLEEPING GOD COMMANDS!
SLEEPING GOD COMMANDS!

WE HAVE BROUGHT ALL THE WHITE POWDER AND THE WOOD.

ON YOUR KNEES.. HEADS TO GROUND, BEFORE THE SLEEPING GOD!

HIGH PRIEST.. BUILD THE FIRES INSIDE ZAAL. WE'RE MAKING A SACRIFICE!
?
?

ENOUGH WOOD, HIGH PRIEST. WE ARE NOW READY FOR THE SACRIFICE TO YOUR SLEEPING GOD ZAAL.
WHAT... SACRIFICE?
?

THAT STUFF.. THE HEROIN. POUR IT ALL INTO THE FLAMES!
N-NO!

OUR WHITE POWDER?!
NO! NEVER!

BEFORE THE FLAMING IDOL ZAAL... AS TWO MEN ATTEMPT TO SHOOT... THE PHANTOM WHIRLS...
AI!!!
CLANG
CLANG

THE NEXT MAN WHO MOVES GETS A BULLET BETWEEN THE EYES!

THROW THAT HEROIN INTO THE FLAMES, PRINCE..OR YOU'RE THE NEXT MAN!
!

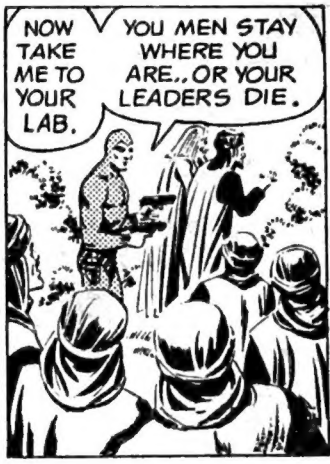
AS THE HEROIN IS TOSSED INTO THE FLAMES..
MORE, PRINCE! THROW IT ALL IN! THE LAST SACRIFICE TO THE SLEEPING GOD ZAAL!
YOU OTHERS KEEP BACK!

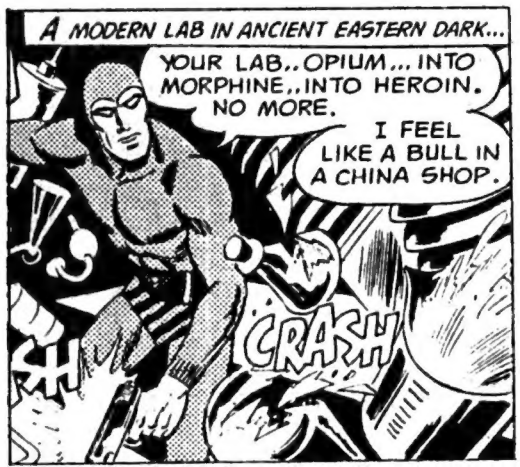
OUR POWDER..!
ALL... GONE..!

PUSHERS.. WHO USE THEIR OWN PRODUCT? A WHOLE TOWN OF ADDICTS!

"THE SLEEPING GOD".. THE IDOL ZAAL!
I WANT ALL YOUR GUNS..OR YOUR TWO RULERS GO INTO THE FLAMES!
!

INTO THE FIRE... WITH THE HEROIN!


NOW TAKE ME TO YOUR LAB.
YOU MEN STAY WHERE YOU ARE..OR YOUR LEADERS DIE.

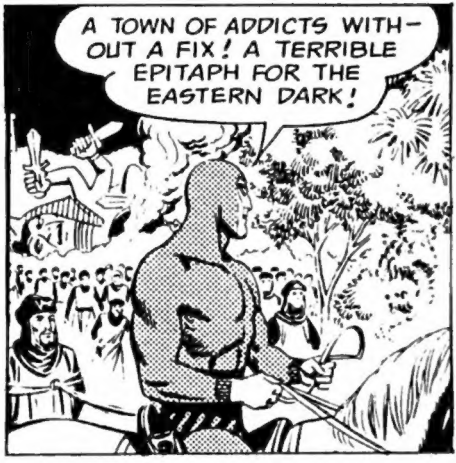

A MODERN LAB IN ANCIENT EASTERN DARK...
YOUR LAB..OPIUM... INTO MORPHINE..INTO HEROIN. NO MORE.
I FEEL LIKE A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.
CRASH

THIS IS WHERE RAW OPIUM ARRIVES? AFTER THIS... RESERVED FOR FISHERMEN!
TALK BARK! 8/11

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH US, ETERNAL ENEMY?
KILL US, WHAT ELSE?
I'VE BETTER PLANS.

I'M TAKING YOUR LEADER TO THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS FOR JUDGMENT. NO MORE HEROIN WILL COME INTO THE JUNGLE.
WHAT.. ABOUT US?

CITY LAW WILL DECIDE THAT.
??!!


A TOWN OF ADDICTS WITHOUT A FIX! A TERRIBLE EPITAPH FOR THE EASTERN DARK!

DAILY PRESS
DOPE RING SMASHED...
AUTHORITIES SEIZE PORT...

THIS IS THE PRINCE OF PUSHERS WHO ENSLAVED YOUR YOUTH. ALL YOURS, CHIEFS OF THE JUNGLE!

A GREAT DEED.. WELL DONE, O GHOST WHO WALKS. WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
NOW... I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED!
NEXT WEEK: DIANA!